

ICT SOURCES AND SERVICES USED BY THE FACULTY MEMBERS OF AUTONOMOUS ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGES AFFILIATED TO UNIVERSITY OF MADRAS

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ABSTRACT

The study reveals that the availability of ICT resources and services in Arts and science colleges in Chennai and utilized by the faculty members. It has been found that most of the ICT sources available in the library, the services also. This study also throws light on the awareness of faculties about information and communication technologies. Most of the respondents working in selected Autonomous Arts and Science College utilized ICT sources and services for collecting research work information. Female respondents are more influence on awareness about library services than the respondents of male. Subject database, Library catalogue, Technical reports, Reference sources and Document Delivery are the most important ICT resources used by the Faculty members.

KEYWORDS: Information Communication Technology (ICT), ICT Sources and Services & Faculty Members

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INTRODUCTION

The present century is the age of digital nervous system, which influences the two core revolution of Personal Computer and the Internet. The recent advancement in the information processing and dissemination, storage and communication technologies have modernized the role of the libraries and information centre all over the world. ICT source is an electronic information resource that we can share on the web or in campus. This requires computer access or any electronic product that delivers a collection of data full text bases, E- Journals, E- Books, image collections, other multimedia products which are numerical, graphical or time based and is commercially available titles published as an E- resource. These may be delivered on CD ROM, on tape, via internet and many other ways. The main advantage of E-resources is the cost saving in printing and paper as well as data storage, maintenance and transmission. These are more useful due to natural capabilities for manipulation and searching, to acquiring information resources at cheaper, savings in storage and maintenance etc. and sometimes the electronic form is the only alternative. Application of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in libraries has become conventional in the present era of information explosion and wide spread use of digital information resources. Libraries are the back bone of any institution which help in the development of research activities. All the users expect latest and relevant information to keep them to improve side by side of new developments in their respective areas of interest. The libraries are switching over to ICT based resources and services at an accelerated pace.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Haneefa (2007): Study was performed via a questionnaire survey of the library users with ICT based resources and services and confined only to special libraries in Kerala. The study reveals that ICT based resources used by the largest percentage of users was the e-mail. He concluded that users proposed a variety of measures of formal orientation and training in ICT based sources and services to become more effective users.

Salma Khan and J. Dominic (2009): Analyze the use and impact among the faculty members of Engineering Colleges of Moradabad. They exposed the Use of internet day by day is increasing for time saving, more informative and less expensive. This study identifies the areas of better Internet services to the faculty members of both the colleges. They concluded that use of conventional document is decreasing and dependency on Internet is increasing it expedite the research process and also improve the professional competency.

Vajargah et al. (2009): Discusses ICT tools and resources for creating, storing, managing and communicating information in Teaching and Learning at Shahid Beheshti University. One of the main applications of the ICTs in higher education is teaching and learning based on these new technologies. This research is concentrated on the obstacles, facilitators, and the risks of using these technologies in teaching and learning in higher education. The study shows computer illiteracy of academics, especially experienced faculty members is one of the most important barriers and therefore, assessing ICT literacy and planning the professional development for Iranian academics will improve their performances on teaching and learning activities.

Laronde (2010): study focuses on an ontario university faculty of education's ubiquitous laptop program. diffusion of innovation theory was used as a conceptual framework to examine how faculties perceive they are learning and integrating ict into the preservice program despite a lack of formal ict standards in the education system of ontario. the study indicate that while many professors often integrated technology in their teaching, there existed a wide range of skills, confidence levels, and amount of ict integrated into teaching among faculty. they study include issues influencing the adoption of effective technology integrations of lack of faculty development, off task behavior of preservice teachers, lack of time to learn ict, technical difficulties, technical supports, wide range of ict skills of preservice teachers, and the high cost of the laptops themselves.

Selvaganapathi and Surianarayanan (2013): Study Indicates That The Survey Of The 79 Samples Taken From The Faculties Of Dr. Sivanthi Aditanar College Of Engineering, Tiruchendur. They Stated That The Faculties Find Various Improvements Required In Library Automated Resources, Networking Services And Also In The Aspect Of Library Facilities. This Study Evaluates How The Library Automation And Networking Facilities Can Be Used By Faculties To Improve Efficiency And Productivity In Academic Activities.

Sivakesavulu and Padmini (2015): Study deals with ICT, its role and advantages in education. It also focuses on the usage of ICT services, advantages and disadvantages in engineering colleges. Also discusses the purpose of using ICT by the faculty members of engineering faculty. They concluded that many colleges now understand the importance of ICT and mastering the basic skills and concepts of it as part of the core education. It is necessary to mention that the ICT has been tremendously influencing all spheres of our life.

OBJECTIVES

- To know the purpose of using ICT by faculty members
- To find out the awareness and use of library services by the faculties
- To study the use of different types of ICT resources and services by the faculty members

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Keeping in view the objectives of the study, an effort is made to evolve a suitable methodology for the research. The present study has been conducted using questionnaire based survey method. A well designed questionnaire consists of twenty eight questions is used as principal tool for the collection of data. A total number of 1040 questionnaires were distributed randomly to the faculty members of selected Arts and Science colleges, 1014 questionnaires were fully completed and utilized this study. In this research study, secondary data have been collected from annual reports, the library records, online information resources, sources from bibliographies, conference proceedings, library science journals etc.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

After collecting the data, the data in the questionnaire was analyzed and interpreted in suitable manner. The inferences were drawn based on standard statistical techniques. All the results have been presented in the form of tables and figures.

Table 1: Purpose of using ICT Sources and Services

	Yes		No	
	N	%	N	%
To prepare for lecture notes	816	80.5%	198	19.5%
To prepare for examinations	785	77.4%	229	22.6%
To collect research work information	860	84.8%	154	15.2%
To Collect General Information	784	77.3%	230	22.7%
To read newspapers, magazines and journals	846	83.4%	168	16.6%
To prepare for seminar/conferences	653	64.4%	361	35.6%
To carryout projects	770	75.9%	244	24.1%
To use for recreation/Entertainment	698	68.8%	316	31.2%
To check e-mail and browsing	732	72.2%	282	27.8%

Source: Primary data

Table 1 depicts the purpose of using ICT sources and services by faculty members working in Autonomous Arts and Science College in Chennai. 84.8% of the respondents using ICT sources and services to collect research work information, 83.4% of the respondents used for to read newspapers, magazines and journals, 80.5% of the respondents utilized ICT sources for preparing lecture notes, 77.4% of the respondents used to prepare for examinations, 77.3% of them used to collect general information, 75.9% of the respondents utilized ICT sources to carryout projects, 72.2% of the respondents using ICT sources for checking e-mail and browsing, 68.8% of the respondents utilized ICT sources for recreation and entertainment and 64.4% of the respondents used to prepare for seminar/Conference. It is observed that most of the respondents working in selected Autonomous Arts and Science College (84.8%) utilized ICT sources and services for collecting research work information.

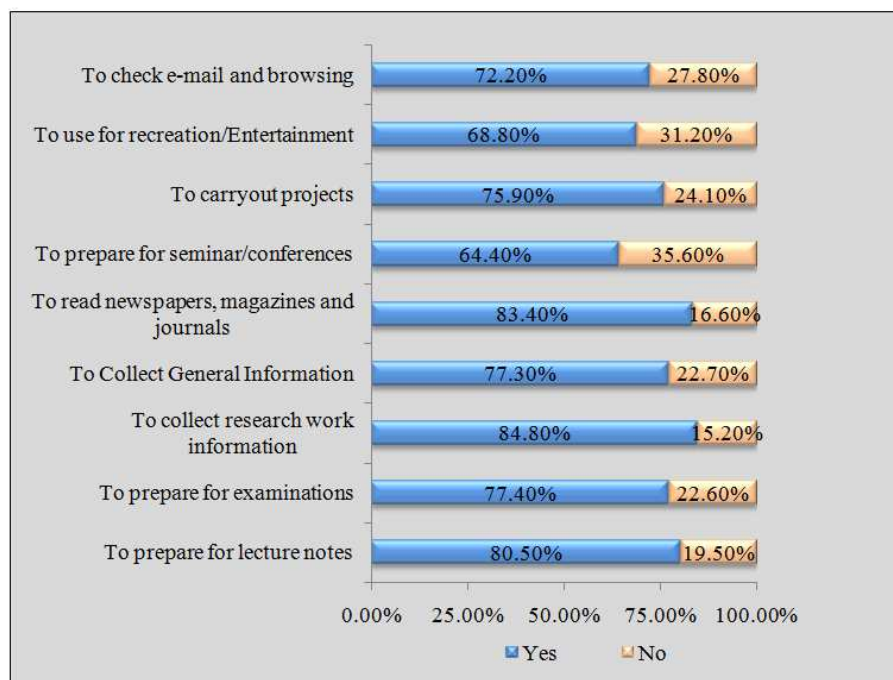


Figure 1: Purpose of using ICT Sources and Services

Null Hypothesis H_0 1: There is no significant influence of respondent's (a) age (b) gender (c) experience on awareness about Library services

Table 2 shows the results of influence of respondent's demographic variables on Awareness about library services in Arts and Science colleges.

Table 2: Influence of Demographic Variables on Awareness about Library Services

	Category	N	Mean	S D	F-Value
Age	Below 30 years	124	4.04	0.461	61.308 ** ($p < .001$)
	31-40 years	529	4.03	0.598	
	41-50 years	269	3.51	0.447	
	Above 50 years	92	4.10	0.640	
Gender	Male	427	3.82	0.625	12.484** ($p < .001$)
	Female	587	3.95	0.570	
Experience	Upto 5 years	172	3.84	0.602	34.788 ** ($p < .001$)
	6-10 years	423	3.86	0.549	
	11-15 years	183	4.35	0.476	
	16-20 years	102	3.76	0.612	
	21-25 years	74	3.69	0.577	
	Above 25 years	60	3.49	0.509	
Designation	Associate Professor	128	3.99	0.523	3.065** ($p = .047$)
	Assistant Professor	886	3.89	0.605	

** Significant at 1% level

The obtained 'F' value **61.308** is significant at 1% level. The respondents in the age group of above 50 years have scored highest mean value of **4.04** and the lowest mean was scored by the respondents of 41-50 years (**3.51**). The formulated hypothesis "there is no significant influence of age on Awareness about library services" is rejected.

The obtained 'F' value **12.484** is significant at 1% level. The respondents of female have scored highest mean value of **3.95** and the lowest mean was scored by the male respondents (**3.82**). The formulated hypothesis "there is no

significant influence of gender on Awareness about library services” is rejected.

The obtained 'F' value **34.788** is significant at 1% level. The respondents having 11-15 years experience in Arts and science College have scored highest mean value of **4.35** and the lowest mean was scored by the respondents of above 25 years (**3.49**). The formulated hypothesis “there is no significant influence of experience on Awareness about library services” is rejected.

The obtained 'F' value **3.065** is significant at 1% level. The respondents working as Assistant Professor have scored highest mean value of **3.99** and the lowest mean was scored by the respondents of Associate Professor (**3.89**). The formulated hypothesis “there is no significant influence of designation on Awareness about library services” is rejected.

ICT SOURCES

ICT sources are printed, electronic or orally narrated information on which research or some other scientific presentation is based. Information sources are also used for such purposes as creating an overview of a subject matter, searching for data and learning the terminology of a field. The use of computer for library operation avoids respectively jobs and saves considerable amount of time, resources and labour.

Table 3: Descriptive for ICT Based Resources

	Mean	SD
Online documents	3.92	1.05
Electronic journal and news letter	3.59	1.17
Thesis and dissertation	3.94	1.03
Online index of print	3.87	1.04
Dictionaries of all types of e-journals	3.93	1.06
Audio and Video materials	3.89	1.15
Directories	3.91	1.16
Training materials	3.89	1.08
Document Delivery	4.01	0.75
Reference sources	4.05	0.71
Library catalogue	4.08	1.15
Subject database	4.48	1.07
Software achieves	3.64	1.37
Data achieves	3.95	0.93
Table contents	3.95	1.17
Technical reports	4.08	0.94
Printers	3.88	0.96

Source: Primary data

From the table 3 it is inferred that the Faculty members of Arts and Science colleges are using most of the ICT resources very well. Subject database, Library catalogue, Technical reports, Reference sources and Document Delivery are the most important ICT resources used by the Faculty members. Online documents, Thesis and dissertation, Online index of print, Dictionaries of all types of e-journals, Audio and Video materials, Directories, Training materials, Table contents, and Printers are the other resources that are used by the respondents in the Arts and Science college very frequently.

ICT SERVICES

ICT service is responsible for the ICT infrastructure for laying and management of the networks that enables communication as well as the equipment used by faculties to pursue their education and research. The equipment that uses

the ICT infrastructure varies and it speeds up technical processing and information services. ICT has been a means to bring quality services. Introduction of technology based information services are sustainable enhances the ability of library.

Table 4: Descriptive for ICT Based Services

	Mean	SD
Current Awareness Services(CAS)	3.90	1.066
SDI services	3.82	1.168
Multimedia service	3.88	1.133
CD/DVD service	3.57	1.517
Online Database search	3.91	1.128
Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC)	3.91	0.957
Library websites	3.97	1.125
Internet services	3.75	0.979
Social networking	3.88	1.092
Photocopy (Xerox) service	3.84	0.985
Printer/Scanner service	3.98	0.857
Training/Demo/lecture on e-resource	3.87	0.935
Electronic Surveillance System (EAS)	3.80	1.097

From the table 4 it is inferred that the Faculty members of Arts and Science colleges are using most of the ICT services very well like sources. Current awareness service, library websites, printer/scanner services and online database service are the most important ICT service used by the faculty members. SDI, OPAC, Multimedia, social networking, photocopy services are the other resources that are used by the respondents in the Arts and Science college.

Satisfactions Level of ICT Sources and Services

Table 5: Satisfaction Level of ICT Sources and Services

	Mean	Std. Deviation
Level of Computerization	1.87	1.053
Level of Communication	2.18	1.382
Networking (LAN/WAN/MAN)	1.53	1.008
Internet connectivity	2.35	1.193
CD/DVD databases	3.43	1.469
Reprographic (Xerox) service	3.65	1.453
Printer/Scanner service	4.06	1.230
ICT Trained library staffs	4.07	1.225
Library staff help to use of ICT tools	3.68	1.461
Library automation	4.14	0.998
OPAC/Web OPAC facilities	3.52	1.543
Document delivery services	3.30	1.341
Digitization of unique materials	3.85	1.327
Scan journal articles	3.03	1.560
Provide article indexing	3.79	1.283

Table 5 explores the satisfaction level of faculty members using ICT sources and services. Most of the faculty members, working in autonomous arts and science colleges, satisfied about the ICT sources and services of library automation, printer and scanner service, ICT trained library staff, digitization of unique materials and available of article index.

FINDINGS

- Most of the respondents working in selected Autonomous Arts and Science College (84.8%) utilized ICT sources and services for collecting research work information.
- Significant influence of age on Awareness about library services is observed. The respondents of above 50 years age are more influence on awareness about library services and the respondents 41-50 years are less influence on awareness about library services.
- Significant influence of gender on Awareness about library services is observed. Female respondents are more influence on awareness about library services than the respondents of male.
- Significant influence of experience on Awareness about library services is observed. The respondents of 11-15 years experience are more influence on awareness about library services and the respondents of above 25 years experience are less influence on awareness about library services.
- Faculty members of Arts and Science colleges are using most of the ICT sources and service very well.

LIMITATIONS

- In this study only faculty members of Arts and Science College in Chennai were selected, particularly autonomous status colleges.
- In this study we discuss the purpose of using ICT, its tools and awareness by faculty members.

CONCLUSIONS

The present study reveals that there is increased acceptance of electronic sources and services by the faculty members in Arts and Science College in Chennai. The rapid developments in information communication technology have facilitated the convergence of new electronic devices and formats. A rapid change in information seeking behaviour and use of Internet and On-line access of E-Resources has become the vital part of various information needs. The faculty members are mostly used ICT sources for research purpose. The respondents in the age group of 31-40 years are more aware about ICT. Most of the faculty members utilized ICT services in library and they access Subject database, Library catalogue, Technical reports, Reference sources and Document Delivery and so on. Most of the faculty members satisfied library automation, printer and scanner service, ICT trained library staff, digitization of unique materials and available of article index.

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